GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:76
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2001
SUICIDE BY WEAVERS
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Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government are aware of the incidence of suicides committed by weavers in Andhra Pradesh and other States of the country;

(b) if so, the number of weavers who had committed suicide so far along with the reasons therefor, State-wise;

(c) Whether the Union Government have sent any team to the affected States to assess the situation;[d] if so, the composition of team, the areas visited by them and the outcome of visit, State-wise; and

(d) the remedial measures taken by the Union Government to help the weavers community in this regard, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 76 T(ANSWERED ON 26TH JULY 2001 REGARDING SUICIDE BY WEAVERS.

(a) & (b) As per reports received, over a period of two years, about 30 powerloom weavers of in and around Sircilla division of Karim Nagar District of Andhra Pradesh committed suicide due mainly to the following reasons:-

i) High incidence of indebtedness.
ii) High power tariff and lack of un-interrupted power supply.
iii) Prevalence of disease.
iv) Poor marketability of end products i.e. low quality fabric due to obsolete and low technology looms.

(c) to (e) Two high level teams of the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India visited Hyderabad and Sircilla in Andhra Pradesh.The composition of the first team was as follows:-

i) Minister of State for Textiles, Government of India.
ii) Minister of State (Home), Government of India,
iii) Minister of State (Urban Development), Government of India.
iv) Development Commissioner for Handlooms.
v) Joint Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Government of India.
vi) Additional Textiles Commissioner, Government of India.
vii) Director, National Institute of Fashion Technology, Hyderabad.

A second team was sent in follow up of the recommendations and consisted of the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles and Additional Textiles Commissioner, Government of India. The main recommendations concerned:-

i) Technological upgradation of looms in the cluster;

ii) Provision of linkages for yarn procurement, product development and marketing, including export.
iii) Provision for training and other extension support for upgradation.
iv) Provision of yarn at more affordable rates.

The follow up action which lay with this Ministry has been taken viz :

i) Supply of yarn through NTC as an interim measure in Sircilla;
ii) staff has been deputed to begin the Extension Counter in Sircilla to the Powerloom Service Centre in Hyderabad;
iii) a team has been sent from the South Indian Textile Research Association (SITRA) to provide technical assistance to the above Extension Counter;
iv) the Powerloom Export Development Council (PEDEXCIL) has taken action for the enrollment of members to set up a Powerloom Centre Development Committee (PCDC) in Sircilla.